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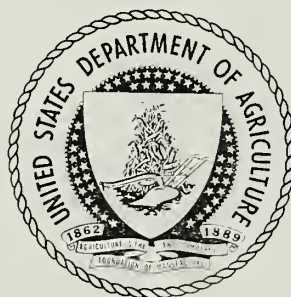
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BOOK NUMBER **A31.3**  
**997019** **Ag880**



Growth Through Agricultural Progress



BN 14881X

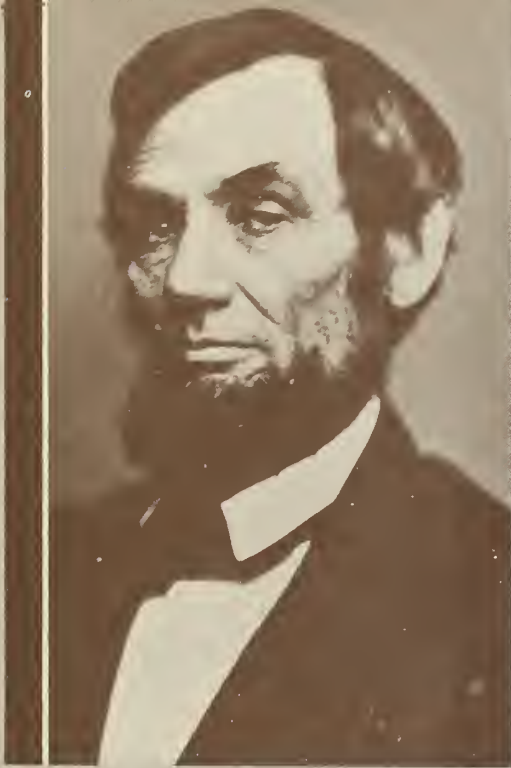
# YEARS OF SERVICE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE



N 38305





BN 14675X

## PRESIDENT ABRAHAM

LINCOLN on May 15, 1862, signed the Act which reads:



*Be It Enacted* by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

*That there is hereby established at the seat of government of the United States a Department of Agriculture, the general designs and duties of which shall be to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word, and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants.*



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**ISAAC NEWTON** first Commissioner of Agriculture, seated amidst his aides, organized the Department of Agriculture and planned its programs for a Nation torn apart by war.

In 1905, James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture 1897–1913 and patriarch of USDA's research, broke ground for the Department's present Administration Building.



1897B





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**RESEARCH** is a basic function of the Department. At the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., and field stations throughout the country, scientists have learned how:

- to feed livestock with matchless efficiency
- to breed crop varieties to specification
- to substitute machines for muscle-power
- to devise effective methods of pest control
- to protect and make full use of natural resources
- to provide man's food needs for growth and health
- to measure and maintain food quality





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## EXPERIMENT STATIONS

at the land-grant colleges and universities have made major contributions to the Nation's agriculture. From the early studies of animal nutrition in Pennsylvania to the recent development of improved onion varieties in Idaho and a mechanical tobacco harvester in North Carolina have come research results to make America's agriculture the most advanced in the world. Oldest existing experimental plots in the United States are the Morrow Plots established in 1876 in Illinois.



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## EXTENSION

. . . the education arm of the Department of Agriculture, had its beginning soon after the turn of the century. The Smith-Lever Act made it official in 1914. County agents and home demonstration agents pioneered the service that now reaches into all facets of farm and family living in every county in the United States. Extension also serves 2,250,000 4-H Club members.



# FORESTRY

. . . programs of the Department of Agriculture have paced the progress of forest conservation in America through the years. These programs now encompass management of 186 million acres in the National Forest system; cooperation with the States and private forest land owners; and forestry research. Overall goal: maximum multiple use of the Nation's wild lands for water, wood, forage, wildlife, and outdoor recreation.

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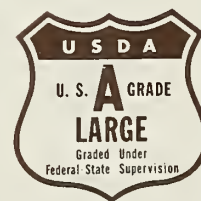
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**MARKETING** advances in the last 50 years have matched the miracles of production of food and fiber in the United States. Through marketing research, regulatory programs, and grading, inspection, and market news on farm products, the Department of Agriculture has helped to bring greater efficiency, fairness, higher standards of quality, and expanded outlets to the marketing process. It is helping to maintain competitive free enterprise in the marketing of farm products.

1279



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**FOOD** has been America's bulwark in war and peace. The Department of Agriculture has geared its programs to assure that all of our people will be well fed. Produced, processed, protected, and prepared by the most up-to-date methods known to man, American food is a bargain. This food supply moves in a never-ending lifeline to our homes, our schools, our armed forces, and our friends in other countries.



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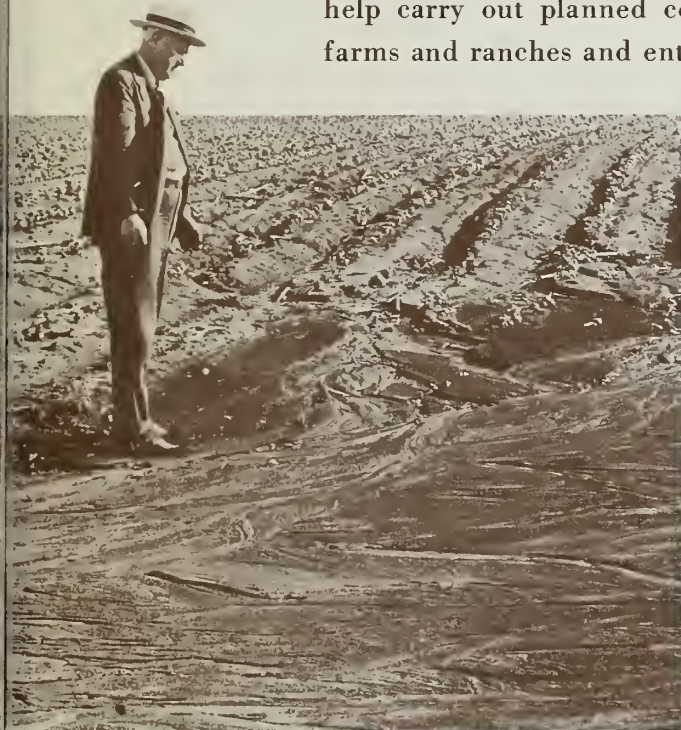
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## ADJUSTMENT

. . . was an outgrowth of agricultural abundance following two world wars. As farm production exceeded demand, the Congress and the Department of Agriculture applied programs to protect farmers against economic disaster. Programs for acreage adjustment, conservation, price support, and crop insurance were tailored to maintain a stable agriculture and a virile economy.



**CONSERVATION** has changed the face of American land. Early in the 1930's pioneer soil conservationists warned of the dangers of soil erosion. Starting with the help of the depression-born Civilian Conservation Corps, we built a national program of soil and water saving practices and better land use, supported by technical, financial and educational aid from USDA. More than 2900 local soil conservation districts help carry out planned conservation work on farms and ranches and entire watersheds.



C-8123



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# COOPERATIVES

. . . have a major role in the growth of agricultural enterprises in the United States. With such humble beginnings as this California citrus shed in 1892, cooperative activities have grown to include nearly 10,000 producer-owned organizations. Department of Agriculture's research studies on cooperatives cover important phases of operations in marketing, purchasing, and related farm services.



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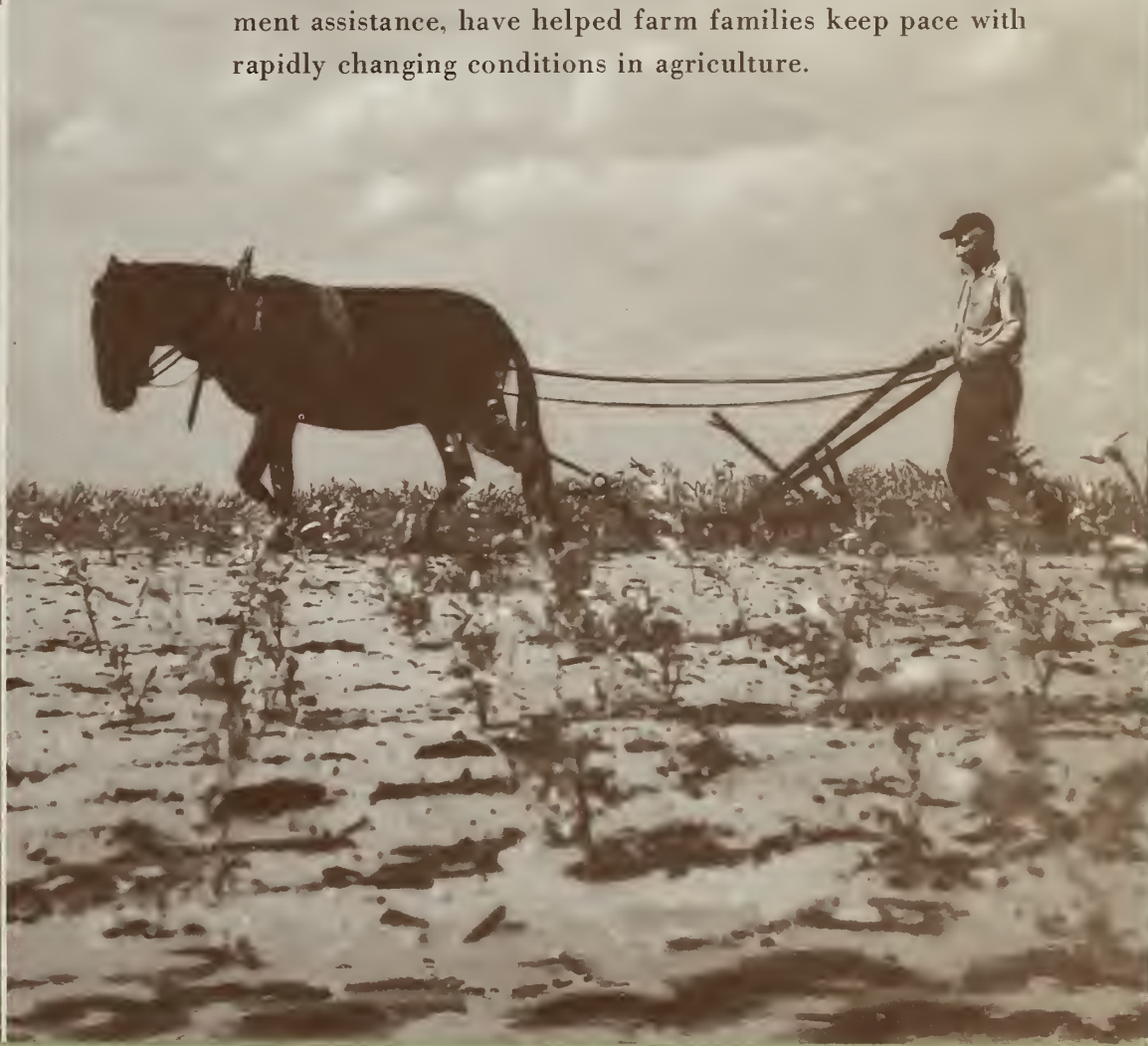




**CREDIT** has spelled opportunity for millions of farm families.

Loans provided through the Department of Agriculture's credit services have helped rural people obtain land, equipment, livestock, buildings, electricity, telephones, and other modern conveniences.

These loans, accompanied by farm and money management assistance, have helped farm families keep pace with rapidly changing conditions in agriculture.



# ECONOMICS

. . . and statistics work of the Department helps farmers evaluate their role in economies of the Nation and the world. As their ancestors did a century ago, more than 500,000 farmers and businessmen regularly contribute data for several hundred statistical reports, such as the one being signed by Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman. USDA economists study domestic and foreign trends and new developments in agricultural production, marketing, population, and consumption.



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## FOREIGN SERVICE

in behalf of U.S. farmers has long been a Department of Agriculture activity. Export sales of corn were promoted as far back as the 1889 Paris Exposition, but the big foreign job then was bringing back the world's best plants and animals to improve U.S. farming. Today, the improved crops from 1 of every 6 harvested acres are exported. Foreign sales are promoted through the trade fairs and other means. A worldwide reporting corps of agricultural attaches helps in many ways.

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## HOW TO OBTAIN PRINTS

Photographs are free to public media from Photography Division, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. Others may purchase prints (8×10) at \$1.10 each from the same address.



Growth Through Agricultural Progress

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**AGRICULTURE** has made spectacular progress in the United States during the last century (1862–1962). Sharing in that record of progress, the Department of Agriculture observes its Centennial with pride in the past and faith in the future. This picture story has shown some of the programs and people who have contributed to agriculture's achievements.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER 1961





